(d) the basis of selecting independent directors in PSEs to ensure that there is no conflict of interests?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) From time to time references have been received regarding appointment of independent directors to the Boards of various PSEs including BHEL. Independent Directors are selected by the administrative ministries on the recommendations of the Search Committee under the Department of Public Enterprises. Names of the identified candidates by the Search Committee are sent to the respective PSEs for ascertaining if there is any conflict of interest. Only after receipt of "No Objection" from PSEs, the administrative ministries seek the approval of Appointments Committee of Cabinet.

Shri Ashok K. Aggarwal, who was appointed as independent director of BHEL with effect from 16-11-2005 for a period of 3 years, also happens to be Managing Director of a Tobacco Manufacturing Company. He has requisite qualification and experience (B.A., L.L.B.; PGDPM & IR; Dip. Labour Law and Member of FICCI, PHDCCI & FII) as necessary for an independent director. He has rich experience of 28 years of working in senior positions in Public and Private Corporate Sector.

No independent director on the Board of BHEL is presently having any direct links with a competitor of BHEL as per records available with the Company. The names of independent directors of BHEL and their qualifications are as follow:

1. Shri Sanjay M. Dadlika	:	B.Com, Social Worker
2. Shri Shekhar Datta	:	B.E.(Mechanical Engineering), FIMA & Ex-President CII 3.
3. Shri Manish Gupta	:	IAS (Retd.), Ex-Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, B.Sc., Certificate in Field Engineering (Civil, Mechanics & Electrical), Post Graduate Certificate in Business Management
4. Shri A.K. Aggarwal	:	B.A., L.L.B, PGDPM&IR, Diploma in Labour Law, M.D. Gopal Group.
5. Shri Madhukar	:	M.A.(Eco.), L.L.B., Ex-CMD UBI, & Ex-Member SEBI

Technology for enhancing production from ONGC's ageing oil wells

375. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are negotiating for getting technology for improving production from ONGC's ageing oil wells;

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure that only established technology is taken as normally foreign companies try to pass on either obsolete or innovative technology; and

(c) whether it would be made mandatory for the foreign company to transfer this technology to ONGC within the period of proposed agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) New technologies are beneficial for increasing production from old oil wells producing sub-optimally.

Oil And Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is implementing proven new technologies for such wells. Various well techniques like drilling of horizontal and multilateral wells by side-track in old wells, intelligent well completion, workover, stimulation, hydro-fracturing, acidisation etc. are being implemented to augment oil production, wherever feasible.

(b) ONGC inducts only proven equipment and technologies. In case of new technology, pilot studies are carried out before full scale implementation.

In-house expertise is available in ONGC for evaluating advanced technologies. However, experts are also hired wherever necessary.

(c) Engineers and scientists from ONGC are always associated during implementation of any new technology in order to gain expertise for future implementation.

Indo-Iran-Pakistan Pipeline Project

376. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much progress has been made in the construction of the proposed India-Iran-Pakistan pipeline; and

(b) by when the final deal may be expected to form up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline.

Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests as also to avoid any future problems in the successful operation of the project. As such, the agreement will only be signed after satisfactory resolution of issues under discussion.

Loss of Gas bid in Myanmar

377. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it a fact that India lost the gas bid to China in Myanmar due to spat between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) if so, what will be its impact on future overseas bidding in the field of oil and natural gas;